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same season SHERFF also obtained data upon the evaporation rates in different strata of the marsh vegetation, showing the evaporating power of the air to be 300 per cent greater in the top stratum of the *Phragmites* association than in the lowest, while the difference became three times as great in the *Typha* association. These results confirm those of YAPP<sup>27</sup> for a sedge vegetation and those of the reviewer<sup>28</sup> for the beech-maple forests, warranting the conclusion that plants may grow in proximity with each other and yet, vegetating in different horizontal strata, be subject to widely different growth conditions.—GEO. D. FULLER.

**History and origin of monocotyledons.**—HORWOOD<sup>29</sup> has done useful service in bringing together, in convenient form, the evidence of fossil monocotyledons. The record of each family is recited, and the summary shows that the first authentic specimens are from the Cretaceous, and that in the Tertiary or Post-Tertiary 24 families out of about 30 are represented. In dealing with the origin of monocotyledons, HORWOOD gives a synopsis of most of the views that have been advanced and reaches the following general conclusion: that the monocotyledons and dicotyledons are divergent series from a common ancestor; that among the dicotyledons there has been "progression and differentiation," while among the monocotyledons there has been "retrogression and even some reduction from a common ancestor of the primitive angiospermic type." This primitive type, by the way, "resembled an alismaceous or liliaceous type, on the one hand, and a ranalian type on the other," and in the background of this primitive stock the author sees the Cycadafilicales and Bennettitales. The mass of facts brought together will be very useful, even if the conclusions are not convincing.—J. M. C.

**Fourth International Botanical Congress.**—The first circular of the International Botanical Congress of 1915 has been issued. The sessions will be held in London from May 22 to May 29. Membership is secured by subscribing to the regulations of the congress and by the payment of a subscription of 15 shillings. Ladies accompanying members may attend the meetings and excursions of the congress on payment of 10 shillings each. The presidents of the organizing committee are Professor F. O. BOWER, Sir DAVID PRAIN, and Professor A. C. SEWARD. The general secretary is Dr. A. B. RENDLE, British Museum, Cromwell Road, London, S.W., to whom applications may be made.

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<sup>27</sup> YAPP, R. H., On stratification in the vegetation of a marsh, and its relations to evaporation and temperature. *Ann. Botany* 23:275-320. 1909.

<sup>28</sup> BOT. GAZ. 54:424-426. 1912.

<sup>29</sup> HORWOOD, A. R., The past history of monocotyledons, with remarks on their origin. *Scottish Bot. Review* 1:164-180, 216-234. *pls. 1-4*. 1912.